(b) if so, when and what, if any, was the amount sanctioned for the same ;

(c) why was the work not taken up till now ;

(d) is not the Government aware of the very great inconvenience that the people of the place are put to owing to the absence of a bridge there ?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—(a) No.

(b) Vide answer to sub-division (a).

(c) For want of funds and because it was not urgent.

(d) Government consider that a bridge is desirable.

Distillery for the manufacture of Alcohol.

87. Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(a) is there any Distillery in the State for the manufacture of Alcohol ;

(b) if so, to whom does the Distillery and machinery belong ;

(c) is it run by the State or through a private agency ;

(d) if the latter, whether the present agent is a Cochinite or a foreigner ;

(e) what are the terms on which the contract has been given ;

(f) what does it cost the Government per gallon of alcohol;

(g) has the Government any control either in the appointment or management of the staff of the Distillery ;

(h) of the present staff how many are Cochinites and how many are not ;

(i) is the Government aware that the Distillery in Travancore is directly under the Government management ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) There is a Distillery for the manufacture of arrack. Alcohol (90% and 70% Pure Rectified spirits) is also manufactured there.

(b) The Government.

(c) A contractor manufactures and supplies the liquor.

(d) The present contractor is not a Cochinite but posses ses landed properties in the State.

(e) The terms are.—

(1) that he should supply country spirits for the whole State for the year ending Karkadagam 1103 subject to the rates and conditions contained in the Diwan's Notification, Revenue Department, (Separate Revenue) dated 19th March 1926 (Copy placed on the Council Table) and Pure Rectified spirits at proportionate rates or such higher rates as may be fixed by the Diwan ;

(2) that he should manufacture arrack from the best jaggery;

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(3) that he should furnish a security of Rs. 5,000 for the due fulfilment of the contract;

(4) that he should pay a monthly rent of Rs. 125 for the use of the Distillery and the plant;

(5) that he should establish a bonded Warehouse in Ernakulam and such number of depots as are mentioned in the Diwan's Notification above referred to and maintain a minimum of such quantities of liquor as directed by the Excise Superintendent;

(6) that he should attend to the minor repairs to the plant, etc.;

(7) that he should appoint a local agent in the Distillery. The local agent and the coolies employed in the Distillery are to work under the control of the Distillery officer.

(f) Nothing, since the raw materials and the labour required for the manufacture of the liquor are all supplied by the contractor himself.

(g) No direct control except over the appointments of the Government officers. But the Superintendent has to recognise the appointments made by the contractor. The management of the Distillery is subject to the supervision of the Distillery officer under the Cochin Distillery and Warehouse Rules and the contractor has to carry out the orders of the Excise Superintendent.

(h) Of the 3 Government Officers in the Distillery 2 are Cochinites. It is not Government's concern to enquire about the contractor's staff.

(i) Government are aware that the Distillery in Travancore is as much under the Travancore Government management as the Distillery at Trichur is under the Cochin Government management.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—May I know what the present rate is at which the spirits are taken by the contractors?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Rs. 1-9-0 now for country spirits for 35°.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—What is the price of spirits of 70 and 90 degrees?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The rate is the same. For 70 and 90 we dilute the 35° spirit. I have not the figure here. It has to be calculated. The rate is the same at the rate of Rs. 1-9-0 per gallon 35° U. P.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—May I know what is the scope of the work of Government employees in the Distillery? There are three persons.

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Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—To supervise the distilling work done by the contractor.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—The whole manufacture is done by the contractor through his own agents; is it so?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Yes.

Removal of timber.

88. **Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the *kychit* executed on 22nd March 1928 on behalf of "The Standard Tile and Clay Works Company, Alwaye" to the Conservator of Forests for the extraction of timber from the Malayattur reserve to the north of Padappara;

(b) how much and what kind of timber was removed in pursuance of this agreement;

(c) what was the total amount realised by the Government under such item of receipt from the Company under the terms of the agreement;

(d) was there a petition by K. Ethapanes to plant trees on the cleared area of 22 acres 61 cents if he is allowed to cultivate the area for the years without getting any timber for the same; if so, will a copy of the petition be kindly placed on the Table;

(e) what were the orders on the petition?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—(a) (*Vide Appendix I.*)

(b) Tons 336·06 of jungle-wood fuel.

(c) Rs. 678—9—1.

(d) No.

(e) No reply is required in view of the answer to (d).

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Is there any mistake in the figures given in answer to part (b) of the question?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—It is not 336,06; it is only 336·06.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Was any timber removed from this area?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—No. I have no information.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—That was my question. My question was how much and what kind of timber was removed in pursuance of this agreement.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—No timber has been removed.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—To whom is the area now entrusted for cultivation? If entrusted, what are the terms of the contract? Is it not a fact that the area has been entrusted to Ethapanes?

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